

Amendments to the Claims:

The claims currently pending and as amended follow;

1. (Previously amended) A blower assembly for providing continuous positive airway pressure to a patient comprising
an inlet muffler box which receives a turbulent stream of air which is directed along an air pathway comprising a first perforated tube, whereby the stream of air exits the tube through the perforations thereof and is directed around a first divider and a second divider and a third divider, lengthening the air pathway, whereby the stream of air ~~and~~ is thereby transformed into an approximately laminar stream of air;
a blower box comprising a centrifugal fan; and
an outlet muffler box comprising a perforated tube for receiving the stream of air through the perforations thereof, the stream of air having passed the third divider and; connected to a hose leading to the patient.
2. (Currently amended, twice amended) The blower assembly of claim 1 wherein the air pathway is lined ~~walls and baffles are coated~~ with an anechoic material.
3. (Original) The blower assembly of claim 1 wherein the air pathway is reduced in cross sectional area from that of the hose leading to the patient.
4. (Original) The blower assembly of claim 3 wherein the cross sectional area of the air pathway is 20% to 50% smaller than that of the hose leading to the patient.
5. (Original) The blower assembly of claim 3 wherein the cross sectional area of the air pathway is 25% to 35% smaller than that of the hose leading to the patient.
6. (Currently amended; twice amended) An inlet muffler box which comprises
a first perforated tube having a sealed end distal to an inlet orifice which receives a turbulent stream of air through the orifice;
a first divider placed along the length of the first perforated tube so as to direct the stream of air around the first divider thereby lengthening the air pathway;
a second divider placed along the length of the first divider so as to direct the stream of air around the second divider, thereby lengthening the air pathway;
a second perforated tube having a sealed end distal to an orifice; and
a third divider along the length of the second perforated tube so as to direct the stream of air around the third divider, and

an orifice opening to the blower box.

7. (Original) The inlet muffler box of claim 6 wherein the perforated tubes are of approximately equal length and each of the dividers is about 60% of the length of the perforated tubes.

8. (Previously amended) A blower assembly for providing continuous positive airway pressure to a patient comprising:

an inlet muffler box which receives a turbulent stream of air which is directed into a first perforated tube with a sealed end, whereby the air enters the muffler box through the perforations in the first tube, is directed along an air pathway by a first divider placed along the tube, is diverted by a second divider placed on the wall of the box opposite to the first perforated tube, is further diverted by a third divider placed along a second perforated tube with a sealed end, thereby transforming the turbulent stream of air into a laminar flowing stream of air which then passes through the perforations in the second tube into a blower box; and a blower box comprising a centrifugal fan and an outlet muffler box connected to a hose leading to the patient.

9. (Canceled) The blower assembly of claim 1 or 8 wherein the outlet muffler box comprises the inlet muffler box of claim 6.